

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Soviet Troops in Bernburg

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 23 February to 2 March 1952

25X1C
DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

7 April 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 23 February 1952, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne in Bernburg (M 52/D 76) quartered an artillery unit of 1,000 to 1,500 troops. The unit was equipped with 6 x 37-mm AT guns and 70 to 74 guns of 76.2-mm and 100-mm caliber. [] It moved to Altengrabow (M 53/20). The Adolf Hitler Kaserne, Bernburg, was re-occupied by an engineer unit and a tank unit totaling about 1,500, 200 of whom were on furlough. Four colonels, including 1 colonel (Adm), and 6 or 7 lieutenant colonels inspected the unit when it fell in for roll call in 302 ranks of four men each on 23 February. The tank unit and engineer unit were integrated. The engineer component had 15 to 20 large amphibious cars, 15 to 20 small amphibious cars, 2 trucks mounting hoisting gears, several motor rams numerous pontoons and a large caterpillar tractor. The unit was scheduled to move to Rossau in mid-March. [] Engineer training structures observed in the restricted area between the barracks installations and Der Roesse included sections of corduroy roads, 1 wooden bridge across a ravine for vehicles and tanks, several tunnels driven into the rock, various fire trenches and several mine fields which source believed to have been mined with practice mines. A wooden practice bridge over the branch of the Saale River below the barracks installation was torn down at the end of February. On 1 March, a landing stage was constructed farther downstream. Source obtained definite information on the tank unit which was equipped with 12 JS tanks garaged in a shed. The unit was never seen practicing with the tanks. The troops received instruction on the radio sets taken out from the tanks. []

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Source again stressed that the tank unit and engineer unit were mixed when he saw them on 23 February. **

[] Comment. Source previously reported on the artillery unit in the Adolf Hitler Kaserne []. The present report deviates from the reference report inasmuch as the regiment, which is a component of the 3d Gds (?) AT Arty Brig and, according to T/C, is believed to be equipped with 24 guns of 76.2-mm, while the second and third regiment of the brigade are believed to be equipped with 24 x 76.2-mm guns and 24 x 100-mm AT guns respectively, is stated to have guns of various type and caliber. The number of guns belonging to the regiment in Bernburg in any case appears to be estimated too high. Even if the T/C were changed, about 36 artillery pieces would appear adequate. The organization of the unit is still

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undetermined. No information has been received that a light AA battery is assigned to such artillery regiments. This, however, would be plausible.
 ** [redacted] comment. The situation regarding the occupation of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne has not changed. [redacted]. According to the present report, the engineer regiment numbers about 1,500, as does the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GOWG which is believed to be quartered in the Mindenburg Kaserne, Magdeburg.
 [redacted]. The tank unit mentioned in the present report as equipped with 12 JS tanks is obviously an organic component of the engineer regiment.
 [redacted]
 [redacted]

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